

**Amendments to the Specification**

Please amend the specification, as follows:

Page 1, lines 1-2, replace the title paragraph with the following amended paragraph:

[[A]] METHOD OF AND [[AN]] APPARATUS FOR  
ASSEMBLING TYRES FOR VEHICLE WHEELS

Page 1, line 4, delete the paragraph “Description” in its entirety:

Page 1, line 5, add the following paragraph in the form of a section heading after the title  
“METHOD OF AND APPARATUS FOR ASSEMBLING TYRES FOR VEHICLE WHEELS”  
and prior to the paragraph beginning “The present invention relates to a method . . . .”

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

Page 1, line 5, add the following new paragraph after the heading “CROSS-  
REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS” added above and prior to the paragraph  
beginning “The present invention relates to a method . . . .”

This application is a national-phase entry under 35 U.S.C. § 371 from International Application No. PCT/IT2002/000699, filed November 5, 2002, in the Italian Patent Office, the content of which is relied upon and incorporated herein by reference.

Page 1, line 5, add the following new paragraph in the form of a section heading after the cross-reference to related applications added above and prior to the start of the paragraph beginning “The present invention relates to a method . . . .”

#### BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Page 1, line 5, add the following new paragraph in the form of a section subheading after the heading “BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION” added above and prior to the start of the paragraph beginning “The present invention relates to a method . . . .”

##### Field of the Invention

Page 1, line 11, add the following new paragraph in the form of a section subheading prior to the start of the paragraph beginning “A tyre for vehicle wheels generally . . . .”

##### Description of the Related Art

Page 5, line 19, add the following new paragraph in the form of a section heading prior to the start of the paragraph beginning “In accordance with the present invention . . . .”

#### SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Page 7, line 7, add the following new paragraph in the form of a section heading prior to the start of the paragraph beginning “Further features and advantages . . . .”

#### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Page 7, line 30, add the following new paragraph in the form of a section heading prior to the start of the paragraph beginning “Referring particularly to Figs. 1 to 3 . . . .”

#### DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE EXEMPLARY EMBODIMENTS

Add a new page 23 after the claims, adding the following ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE. A new, separate page 23 including the ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE is enclosed.

#### ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method of assembling tyres for vehicle wheels includes disposing a carcass structure on a primary drum, disposing a belt structure on an auxiliary drum, picking up the belt structure

from the auxiliary drum to transfer the belt structure to a position coaxially centered with respect to the carcass structure, and applying a tread band onto the belt structure. The carcass structure includes at least one carcass ply in engagement with annular anchoring structures axially spaced apart from each other. The belt structure includes at least one belt layer. Applying the tread band is carried out by winding up at least one continuous strip element of elastomer material in contiguous circumferential coils around the belt structure. An apparatus for assembling tyres for vehicle wheels includes the primary drum, the auxiliary drum, at least one unit for applying a tread band onto a belt structure, and a transfer member.